

County Manager's Proposed
FY 2025 Budget

Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney

County Board Work Session
March 5, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.



The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church pursues justice, broadly, on behalf of victims, defendants, and all the members of our community. We strive to incorporate data-driven practices to inform our policies, while also seeking restoration by engaging with victims of crime and the community to repair harm.

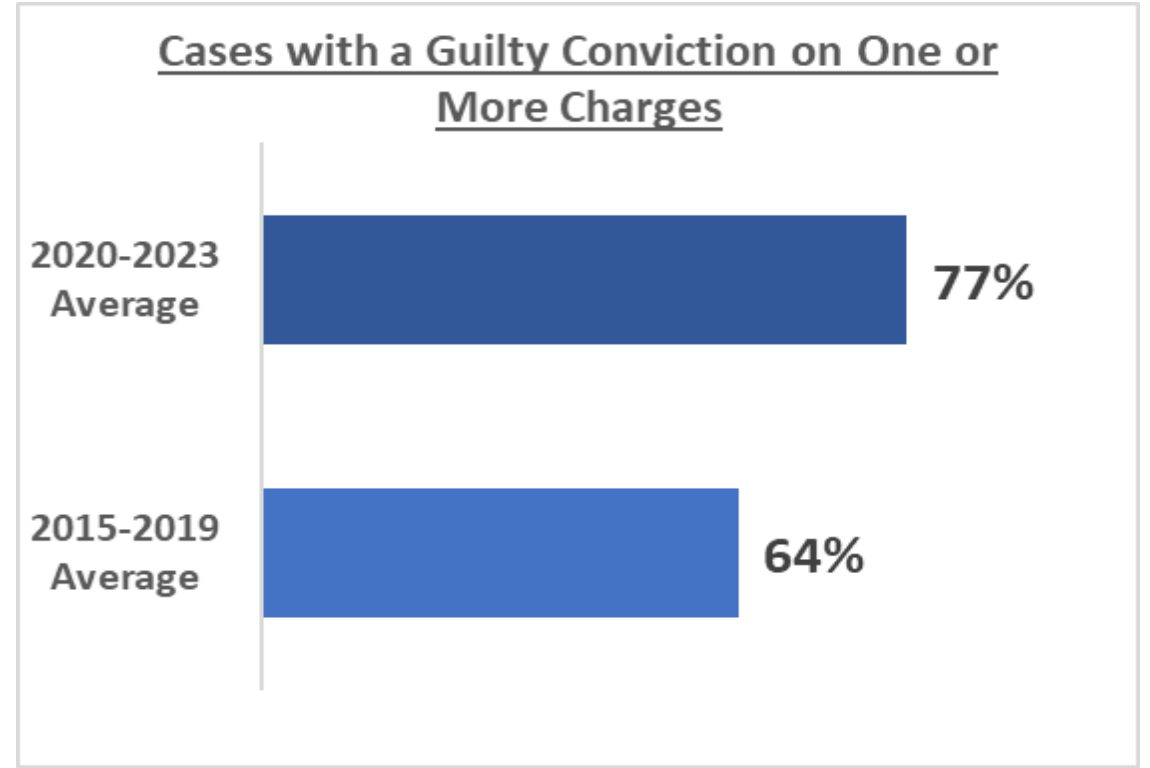
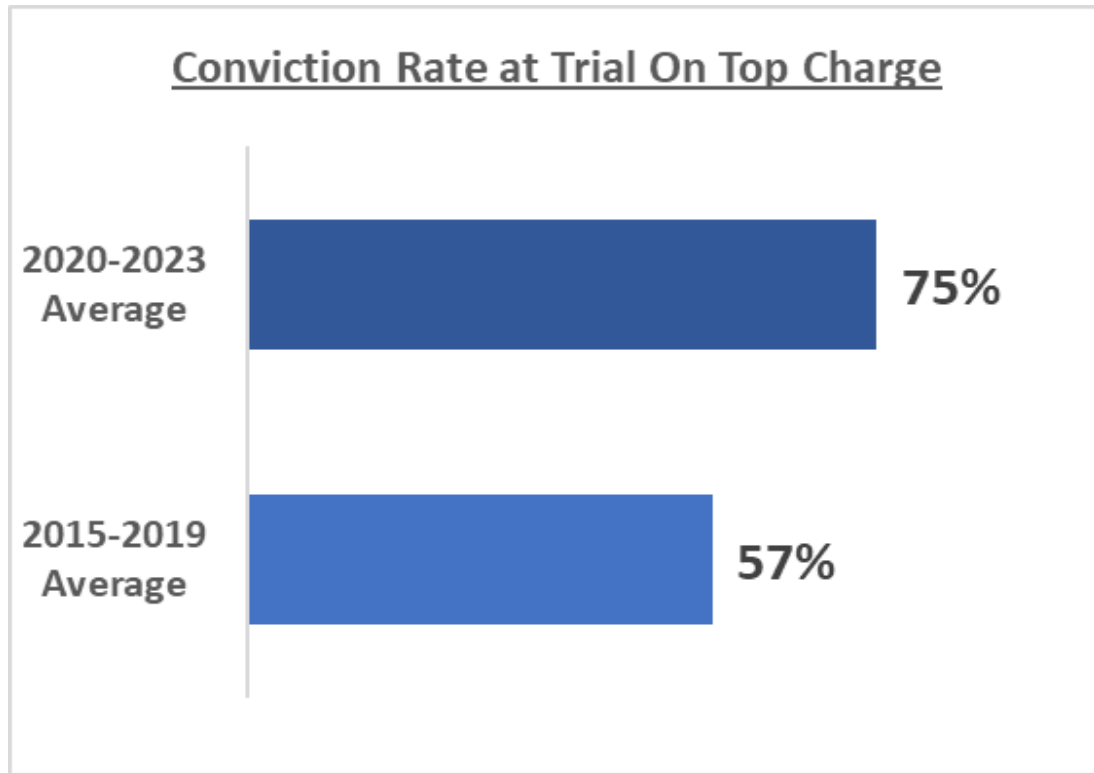


Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney: Focus on Equity

- **Prosecuting Crime Accurately and Fairly:** Setting policy and priorities in order to focus on serious crimes, victims, and rational prosecution decisions.
- **Working for Justice:** Upholding the rights of defendants and victims, protecting vulnerable members of the community, and supporting diversion and alternative programs such as drug and mental health courts and restorative justice.
- **Fighting for reform:** Transformative Justice through a holistic view that includes community engagement, public education, transparency, and advocacy.



Measures of Justice: Prosecuting Crime

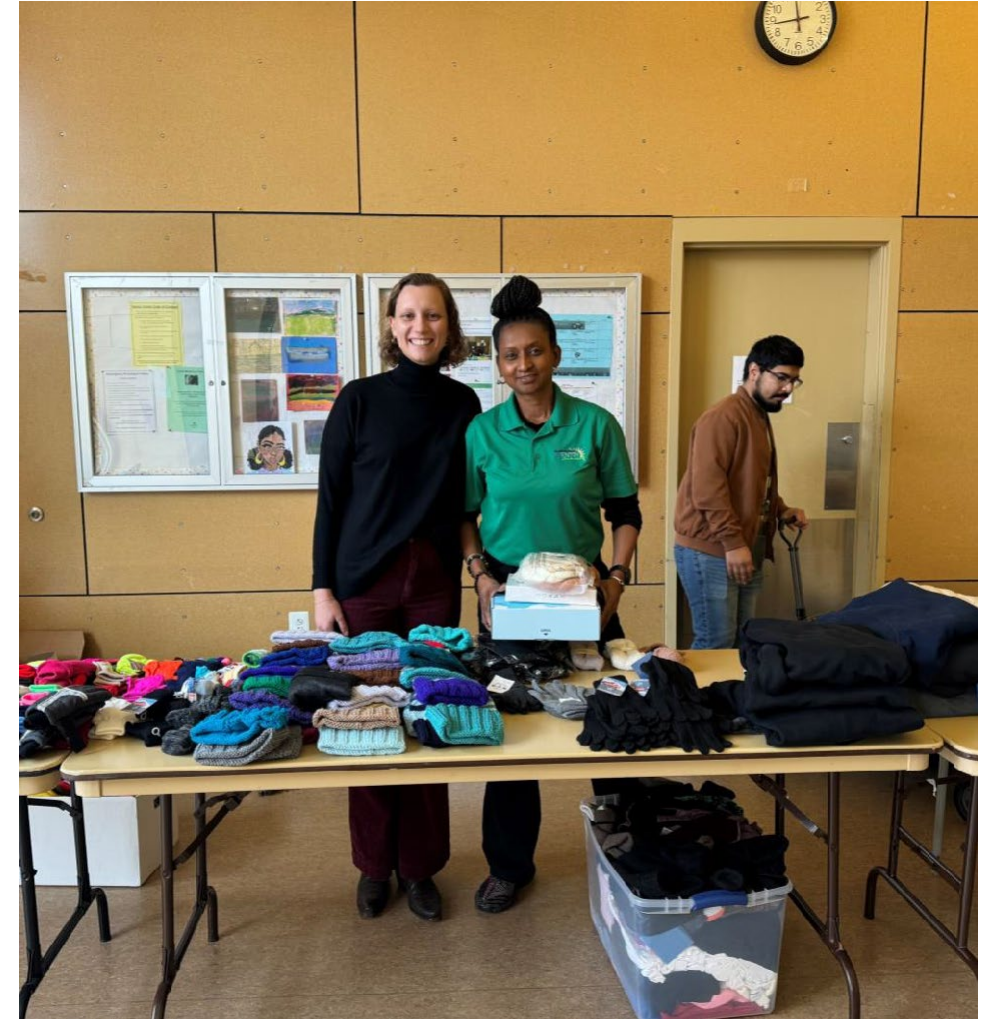


Measures of Justice: Working for Justice

- **Preserving DACA status:** consideration of collateral consequences
- **Charging with accuracy and restraint:** protecting constitutional rights
- **No Cash Bail:** liberty should not be determined by money
- **Treating kids like kids:** understanding brain development and potential for rehabilitation
- **Conviction Review:** ensuring past convictions are accurate and fair

Measures of Justice: Fighting for Reform

- Racial disparities
- Expungement Clinics
- Community Partnerships
 - Arlington Reentry Council
 - Marcus Alert
 - Moms Demand Action
- National partnerships
 - Equal Justice USA
 - Vera Institute for Justice
- Reframing accountability
 - Restorative Arlington Partnership
 - OAR diversion
- Diversion produces low recidivism



Summary of Proposed Changes

	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2025 Proposed	Change	% Change
Expenses	\$6,284,052	\$6,652,882	+\$368,830	+6 %
Revenue	\$2,277,215	\$2,337,726	+\$60,511	+3 %
Staff	48 FTEs	48 FTEs	-	-

- **Personnel increases** due to employee salary increases, an increase in the County's cost for employee health insurance, slightly higher retirement contributions based on current actuarial projections, and adjustments to salaries resulting from job family studies in Judicial/Legal Services.
- **State revenues** increase due to an increase in State Compensation Board reimbursements partially offset by a decrease in the Victim Witness Grant Program, which was reduced statewide by 10%.

FY 2025 Budget Request Highlights

- **Commit to Justice:** Create permanent Conviction Review Attorney position (\$130,000 - \$150,000)
- **Support Vulnerable Communities:** Create permanent Investigator position (\$145,000 - \$170,000)
- **Promote Healing and Safety:** Make the Director of Restorative Justice and Diversion Services position permanent (\$87,854 FY 2025 budget gap; \$117,138 full-year cost)
- **Enable Transparency:** Contract Temporary Data Entry Personnel to strengthen data analysis (\$169,000 - \$249,600)
- **Support Victim Service:** Restorative Justice is an essential victim service and creates safer, stronger communities – we need to fund conferencing (\$250,000, as DOJ funding expires September 2024)

Key Budget Considerations

- **Burdens on Staff:**
 - Entry level attorney pay is more than 10% below Fairfax and Prince William County
 - Attorney annual caseload average to 2x Prince William County and City of Alexandria
 - BWC continues to add significant time for preparation of each case
- **Office Space:** Need for occupancy of whole suite, insufficient office space when fully staffed, and sharing space is serious security risk
- **Restorative Justice with Restorative Arlington:** in demand, DOJ grant funds expire September 2024

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